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It might have been a scene from a cheap spy thriller.

The transcript of secret testimony was snatched from the hands of a reporter in a Capitol Hill office.

Heated words were exchanged.

Police were summoned to restore order.

The near-fracas was touched off by disputed claims to a transcript of testimony given in secret 35 years ago to a House committee.

Chris Hanson, a reporter for Reuters, the British news agency, was reading the document, which was made public Tuesday by the House Government Operations Committee. There are only a few copies of the transcript, and the committee insisted that reporters not remove the report from its office.

It described how German anti-Nazi intelligence officers cooperated with the Allies during World War II. While the information doubtlessly would have made headlines at the time, it has since become common knowledge through books and news articles over the years.

Hanson said he was perusing the transcript when he overheard an argument in the next room between committee aides and "an agitated young man" who claimed the report belonged to the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Hanson said he was stunned when the intelligence committee aide, Ira Goldman, grabbed the transcript out of his hands and ran into the hallway outside the office.

Hanson quoted Goldman as saying "the transcript belongs to our committee." Hanson said Goldman also accused the Government Operations Committee of violating Intelligence Committee rules by making the transcript public.

Goldman could not be reached for comment.

"It was a big emotional issue to him, a matter of principle," said Hanson.

An aide on the government operations committee, who asked for anonymity, said Goldman "just put it under his arms and ran. He just came in and grabbed it."

Hanson said he blocked Goldman's escape route in the hall while Capitol Hill police were summoned to settle the matter. Goldman then agreed to let the House parliamentarian settle the dispute and the transcript was eventually returned to the government operations panel.

CIA officials said the testimony supported other, well-publicized reports of anti-Nazi activities in wartime Germany.